

Los Angeles Times

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Section C-5

As a public service The Times presents on this page columnists whose opinions reflect those of our diverse readership.

LETTERS TO THE TIMES

Readers Praise and Pan Editorial in Defense of CIA Chief McCone

In this morning's Times I find another of Pearson's columns criticizing Mr. McCone. On an adjoining page I read your editorial complimenting McCone.

I have been reading Pearson's columns for years but can't say I always agree with him. Apparently The Times doesn't either, but your paper should be congratulated and complimented for such a liberal and broadminded policy.

THEODORE RATHMAN,
Los Angeles.

Bully for you and your editorial of Jan. 17 entitled "John McCone, Public Servant."

It is a shame that you had to put one of your columnists, Drew Pearson, in his proper place and you are to be commended for your fortitude in doing so. Pearson has been for years a dealer in half-truths and to my knowledge you are the first to state this fact publicly.

It is a pity that you have to give space in The Times to Pearson's stuff when you have such columnists as Hartmann, Ryskind, Taylor, Ryon and Reston among others. If you are under contract to publish his stuff can't you bury it where it is difficult to find?

Congratulations for revealing Pearson as many people have known him to be.

OWEN J. MYERS,
Los Angeles.

lead editorial in regard to the almost juvenile smears of Drew Pearson against John McCone appeared in The Times in a column written by Robert S. Allen and Paul Scott (Dec. 4). The detailed revelation of why McCone is making changes in the Central Intelligence Agency are told.

Unexpectedly he has objected to the CIA's financing of every major socialist international conference in Europe in the last 10 years, the failure of the CIA to produce accurate information on Communist activities, the promotion of a no-win policy and other activities that are not in the interest of the American people. Drew Pearson and the rest of the one-worlders don't like to have the first string exposed.

It is a great tribute to your editorial staff to call attention to such filthy journalism. I was considering cancellation of your paper because of Pearson, but it seems that he is more than balanced by the local staff.

OREN WILSON,
Manhattan Beach.

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I don't know when I have been so touched as I was when I read your editorial entitled "John McCone, Public Servant."

That the Los Angeles Times felt called upon to defend this outstanding public servant, while at Pearson's lies, is certainly something to be marveled

at. It isn't every day that one finds blatant hypocrisy spread out for all to see.

You say that Pearson's motivation is obscure. May I suggest that you look in your files and you will no longer be puzzled.

The Times' transparent attempt to "wash its hands" in this matter fools no one. Certainly from a moral and legal point of view both The Times and Pearson are equally guilty.

If you are so concerned about Pearson's "tarbrush" why don't you cancel him? I question whether there is a great demand for his pious calumnies.

AGNES WALDRON,
Los Angeles.

Your editorial on "John McCone, Public Servant," is a fine example of what I do not like about The Times. All this twaddle about Ike and Harry having appointed McCone to various offices and his having been confirmed by Congress is unimpressive. Both Ike and Harry were frequently ill-advised in their appointments — as well as in other matters — and the question that is important is whether what Pearson says is true or not. This you blithely ignore.

Why don't McCone and all the other "public servants"—in and out of uniform—sue Pearson for libel, defamation of character, etc?

CHRIS L. SCHOU,
Los Angeles.